



# Changes to Residential Single Family Weatherization Measures – Effective October 1, 2015

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### **Q: Why are the Single Family Weatherization Measures changing?**

The Regional Technical Forum (RTF) estimates energy savings for energy efficiency measures in the Northwest. As part of their normal procedures, they regularly review measures using all available data. The most recent review of the Residential Weatherization Measures incorporated extensive data from the Residential Building Stock Assessment (RBSA). The updates to the Single Family Weatherization Measures include a recalibration of the building energy simulation software that calculates savings, and new information on the use of supplemental heating fuels such as wood stoves. Savings for nearly all measures will be reduced from current levels. Please visit <http://rtf.nwcouncil.org> for more information.

### **Q: Some of the updated RTF measures are not cost effective. How does this affect programs?**

The Total Resource Cost (TRC) test compares the overall costs of a measure to the benefit it provides. The TRC is calculated by the RTF; it is not affected by changes to BPA's payments. A TRC of one or greater indicates that a measure is cost effective; measures with a TRC below one are not cost effective.

BPA considers TRC when determining which measures will be offered. Measures are grouped at the technology category when evaluating cost effectiveness. BPA can support individual measures with a TRC below one as long as the entire technology category remains cost effective. Our evaluation considers program activity to determine the technology category cost effectiveness. In other words, BPA can offer an "Attic Insulation R38 to R49 upgrade" measure with a TRC of 0.16 because the "Insulation" group of measures has a weighted average TRC of 1.40.

BPA will not eliminate any Residential Measures in the October 2015 Implementation Manual. However, double pane window replacement measure had very low TRC values. The RTF is expected to review Manufactured Home Weatherization Measures and estimate similar reductions in savings. At that time, BPA will re-evaluate supporting double pane window replacements for the October 2016 Implementation Manual.

### **Q: What measures are affected?**

The RTF completed the update to the Single Family Weatherization measures, impacting BPA's Single Family Insulation, Windows and Whole House Air Sealing measure with new payments and savings. However, in order to balance the Residential Energy Efficiency Portfolio and to maintain utility program cohesion, BPA also reduced window payments for manufactured homes.



### **Q: Will the change in savings have an effect on BPA's payments for Weatherization Measures?**

Yes, payments will change along with the reduction in savings. BPA uses a few metrics to determine payments for measures. Generally speaking, payments are correlated to savings estimates and the expected lifetime of the measure. The RTF's estimated savings are being reduced by an average of 60%. However, BPA recognizes the value weatherization programs add to utility energy efficiency programs and will use the maximum kWh payment for most weatherization measures. On average, payments will be decreased by only 53%. Please refer to the summary table for specific payment and savings changes.

### **Q: Should we expect that similar changes are coming for Manufactured and Multifamily Homes Weatherization measures?**

Yes, BPA expects the RTF to update their analysis of weatherization measures for both Manufactured and Multifamily homes in 2015. We expect to receive updated workbooks for manufactured homes and multifamily buildings in 2015 or early 2016, which could become effective as early as October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. The review of those measures is likely to result in a similar reduction to savings as the single family measures.